

# **Montgomery County Commission on Child Care**



## **Annual Report**

**2018-2019**

**Montgomery County, MD**

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# Letter from the Chair



## COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

November 1, 2019

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive

The Honorable Nancy Navarro, President  
Montgomery County Council

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director  
Montgomery County Department  
of Health and Human Services

Residents of Montgomery County

Dear Mr. Elrich, Ms. Navarro, Dr. Crowel and Residents:

**The Montgomery County Commission on Child Care is pleased to submit its 2018-2019 Annual Report.**

Commissioners this year have been deeply engaged on behalf of the children and families of Montgomery County in meetings with County officials, collaborations with County agencies and workgroups, and in conversations with child care providers. The Commissioners bring dedication and commitment to their work on behalf of children and families. Commissioners are made up of a variety of stakeholders and experts in the child care and early childhood education field. As a group, our collective knowledge and expertise allows the Commission to discuss, analyze, and problem solve child care issues and provide a comprehensive perspective for feedback, improvements, and solutions to County officials and residents.

In FY19, the Commission focused its work on connecting with early childhood groups and stakeholders to learn about pressing needs in the child care community. Once identified, the commission worked to devise an effective and timely way to communicate these needs and issues with members of the early care and education community as well as community leaders and stakeholders. The Commission created publication materials to educate and inform the County Council and County Executive on important child care topics. We have been using these materials to provide background and coordinate discussions with stakeholders.

The Commission also attended an DHHS/ECS sponsored event, Champions for Children, to hear the voices of families about their experiences with child care in Montgomery County. Through this event, the Commission learned that families in Montgomery County struggle most with the cost of child care and access to programs available to help support them in paying for care.

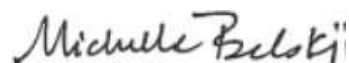
The Commission has also engaged in meetings with the Early Childhood Coordinating Council and met with Councilmembers to discuss issues surrounding child care.

In FY20, the Commission will focus our work on:

- Funding for the Working Parents Assistance Program (WPA): understanding barriers families face using the program as well as making recommendations on ways WPA could better serve families in Montgomery County.
- Funding for Workforce Development
- Issues involving before and after school programming in Montgomery County

**The Commission greatly appreciates your consideration of its recommendations and priorities when making policy and budget decisions.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Belski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Belski

Chair

# The Commission on Child Care

## Vision

Access to quality, affordable child care for all Montgomery County families.

## Mission

To advise the County Executive and County Council on the development, implementation, and effectiveness of government policies, programs, and services that enhance community support for quality, affordable, and accessible child care.

## Purpose

Section 27-62 of the Montgomery County Code provides authority for the Commission on Child Care to “advise the County Executive and County Council on the development of policies, programs, and services that enhance community support for high quality, affordable, and accessible child care.”

## Meetings

The full Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Early Childhood Training Center located at 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. All meetings are open to the public. The full Commission does not meet in July and August. Beginning in January 2020, the full Commission will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

A significant portion of the Commission’s work is accomplished through the Executive, Programmatic Issues, Public Policy, and Membership Committees. Volunteers from the general public are invited to assist the committees. Committee meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at the Early Childhood Training Center located at 1401 Rockville Pike, with the Programmatic Issues Committee and Public Policy Committee meeting concurrently at 7:30 p.m., and the Executive Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Committees do not meet in July and August. Beginning in January 2020, the committees will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

A meeting schedule for the Commission on Child Care can be located at this [link](#). For additional information on the full commission and committee meeting schedules, please call 240-777-1716; TTY 240-777-1009.

## Membership

The Commission has 17 voting members and six to eight non-voting members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Membership includes parents, center and family child care providers, and representatives from the business community, general public, and government agencies with interests in child care. The Commission is supported through staff effort from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

### Commission Year 2018-2019 Voting Members

#### Parent Representatives

Lindsay Allard Agnamba  
Hashan Chowdhury  
Jessica Kelley  
Edward Krauze

#### Child Care Representatives

Michelle Belski  
L'Ornya Bowie  
Laura Seminario-Thornton  
Greg Smith

#### Business and General Public Representatives

William Hegwood  
Sybil Philip  
Keneisha Roberts  
Greg Stevens

### Non-Voting Members

Dr. Barbara Andrews, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services  
William Polman, Montgomery County Community Use of Public Facilities  
Vacant, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Carl Eggleston, Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care  
Yvonne Iscandari, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services  
Verna Washington, Montgomery County Public Schools  
Vacant, Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families, Inc.

### Staff

Erin Stillwell, Program Manager, Commission on Child Care, Early Childhood Services  
Department of Health and Human Services

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Department of Health and Human Services

# Recommendations

The mission of the Commission on Child Care is to advise the County Executive and County Council on the development, implementation, and effectiveness of government policies, programs, and services that enhance community support for quality, affordable and accessible child care.

In FY19, the Commission focused its work on connecting with early childhood groups and stakeholders to learn about pressing needs in the child care community. Once identified, the commission worked to devise an effective and timely way to communicate these needs and issues with members of the early care and education community as well as community leaders and stakeholders. The Commission created publication materials to educate and inform the County Council and County Executive about important child care topics. We have been using these materials to provide background and coordinate discussions with stakeholders. During this process we have identified issues that continue to be front and center for the child care community. Based on these activities, our recommendations are:

- The Council should establish a standardized process to listen and understand the priorities and needs raised by the Commission and constituents in order to shape the implementation of the Early Care and Education Initiative. Specifically, the Council should assign a staff person to attend commission meetings on a regular basis to be well informed on the priorities and needs raised by the Commission and its stakeholders. In turn, the staff member would provide regular updates to Council and utilize this information to shape the implementation of the Early Care and Education Initiative.
- WPA funding continues to be underutilized by families in the County. The Commission should be included in discussions regarding process and funding.
- CUPF selection process continues to be an issue in the County. The Commission should have a permanent seat at the table for these discussions.





# Commission Activities

## Presentations and Testimony

- The chair presented the Commission on Child Care [Policy Priorities](#) to the HHS Commission of the County Council (October 2018).
- The CCC transmitted a letter to County Executive Elrich regarding [Executive Regulation 6-17AM and the Child Care in Public Space Re-bid Process](#) (January 2019).
- The CCC transmitted a letter to Council President Navarro and members of the County Council regarding funding for the [Working Parents Assistance Program](#) (February 2019).
- The CCC participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Champions for Children event hosted by Early Childhood Services at the Silver Spring Civic Center (February 2019).
- Members of the CCC met with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz to discuss the mission of the CCC and share policy priorities (March 2019).
- Members of the CCC met with Councilmember Sydney Katz to share updates on the work of the CCC as well as policy priorities (July 2019).
- Members of the CCC met with Councilmember Will Jawando to discuss the mission of the CCC and share policy priorities (August 2019).
- The CCC hosted a screening of the documentary film [No Small Matter](#) with a post-film discussion about early care and education in Montgomery County. Councilmembers, council staff and community stakeholders were invited and encourage to attend this event (September 2019).
- Members of the CCC met with Councilmember Evan Glass to discuss the mission of the CCC and share policy priorities (September 2019).



# 2019-2020 Priorities

**Priority 1:** Restore Working Parents Assistance (WPA) funds to prior levels and update subsidy tables to increase reimbursement amounts per family

**Priority 2:** Focus on workforce development; restore and increase the County's professional development fund for early childhood and work through the Office of Intergovernmental Relations to implore the Maryland State Department of Education to restore the state child care professional development fund

**Priority 3:** Inform county policymakers about issues involving before and after care programming provided by private, public and county programs. The CCC specifically continues to ask:

- To be included in all meetings related to the CUPF process to reevaluate Executive Regulation 6-17AM
- For greater transparency in the CUPF selection process
- For child care professionals to be represented on the selection committee
- A re-evaluation of the principal's role in the selection process

Marc Elrich, County Executive  
Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director  
JoAnn Barnes, Chief  
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Children, Youth and Family Services  
Commission on Child Care  
Early Childhood Services  
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Rockville, Maryland 20852  
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*Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.  
For additional information on the Commission on Child Care, please visit our [site](#)*

*Montgomery County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in  
employment or in the admission or access to its programs or services.*